



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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February 5, 2010

Dear Ms. Baldwin:

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you an Appropriations Request for FY 2011, and for your continued support of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Communities. If funded, this appropriations request will assist the Town of Beloit in extending municipal sewer and water facilities to a neighborhood, located between the Rock River and Afton Road, south of Rice Drive and north of Beloit City Limits, which faces substantial economic and environmental challenges. This area was identified in a 2008 Plan Amendment that was certified by the State's Department of Natural Resources, which mandated the extension of public sewer and water to the neighborhood within 10 years.

In a survey conducted in 2009, the Town of Beloit found that almost 60% of the respondents in the proposed project area qualified as "low-income" or "moderate-income" households using the State Department of Commerce's CDBG Income Guidelines. These households, as you can imagine, are very concerned about how they will finance these needed public improvements. As you're surely aware, Rock County – and the City of Beloit in particular – continues to report at or near the highest unemployment rates in the State, a challenge that greatly impacts near-city neighborhoods such as the proposed project area and compounds residents' concerns about financing such a project. Finally, environmental conditions such as shallow and fractured bedrock, and subsequently a vulnerable local water table, have presented difficulties for homeowners in this area ranging from property damage to high costs for the constant maintenance of individual on-site septic systems.

In addition to reducing the risk to human health and habitation in the project areas, the funding requested for sewer and water extensions will do at least a small part to stabilize the local economy, by providing work for local construction firms and supporting services. We hope you'll agree that the State, the community, and this struggling neighborhood will benefit significantly from the funding this appropriations request will provide.

Sincerely,

Greg Groves, Chairman